

**Remarks:**

This amendment and these remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected each of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,707,570 to Gotanda et al. ("Gotanda"). Applicant traverses the rejections, contending that rejected claims 1-20 are neither anticipated nor obvious.

Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicant would like to patent now, applicant has amended claims 1-3, 7-10, 14-16, and 20, and has canceled claims 6, 13, and 19, without prejudice. However, applicant reserves the right to prosecute any of these claims in their original or amended forms at a later time. Furthermore, applicant has presented remarks showing that claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-18, and 20 are neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability covering all of the pending claims.

**I. Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner rejected each of the pending claims as being anticipated by Gotanda. However, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 14, and has canceled dependent claims 6, 13, and 19, without prejudice. Each of the independent claims, as amended, and their dependent claims, should be allowed at least for the reasons set forth below.

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A. Claims 1-5 and 7

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method for selecting a printing site:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a printing site for a print job of a user based on an appointment calendar of the user, comprising the steps of:

receiving a print job from a user selecting a start time and a document to be printed;

receiving an appointment calendar of a user including time periods linked to meetings scheduled for the user during the time periods;

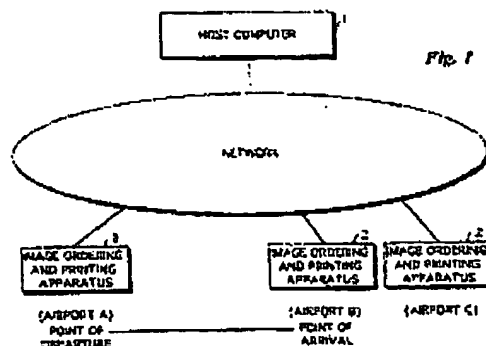
comparing the start time with the time periods to identify a meeting having a linked time period corresponding to the start time;

selecting a printer that is proximate to the identified meeting; and

printing the document with the printer.

Claim 1 is patentable over Gotanda because Gotanda does not teach or suggest every element of the claim. For example, Gotanda does not teach or suggest either (a) "receiving a print job from a user selecting ... a document to be printed," or (b) "receiving an appointment calendar of a user including time periods linked to meetings scheduled for the user."

Gotanda relates to a system for printing images, particularly digital photographs, during travel. A user can order images to be printed at a point of departure and then picks up prints of the images at a point of arrival. The system is indicated schematically for airline travel in Figure 1:



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Gotanda does not teach or suggest a print job of a user selecting a document to be printed, as recited by claim 1. In particular, Gotanda discloses a user selecting images (i.e., photographs acquired with a digital camera) to be printed, but does not teach or suggest that the user would select a document (i.e., output with text) to be printed. Applicant notes that Gotanda does disclose printing a document in Figure 22:

Fig. 22

## PRINT ORDER SLIP

ACCEPTANCE ID	0019907050001
ACCEPTANCE DATA AND TIME	1999.07.05.13.00
ACCEPTANCE LOCATION	AIRPORT A
ORDERING APPARATUS NO.	001
PRINT PICK-UP POINT	AIRPORT B
SCHEDULED DATA AND TIME OF PRINT PICK-UP	1997.07.05.14.45
PRINT PICK-UP APPARATUS NO.	002
NAME OF ORDERER	FUJITARO

However, the document is not selected by the user. Instead, it is generated and selected by the host computer, and also apparently is printed locally, not on a printer that is selected according to claim 1.

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The disclosure of Gotanda also does not teach or suggest "receiving an appointment calendar of a user including time periods linked to meetings scheduled for the user," as recited by claim 1. The system of Gotanda involves the travel itinerary of a user and not "an appointment calendar." In particular, Gotanda discloses use of a boarding ticket to determine the travel itinerary. The points of departure and arrival are disclosed as being read from the ticket, such as a train or airline ticket according to the model of travel:

*Fig. 11*

BOARDING TICKET		
		238
TARO FUJI	FLIGHT	
DESTINATION	108	
TOKYO HANEDA	DATE OF EMBARKATION	
GATE NO.	DEPARTURE TIME	11 / 23
16	12 : 30	
SEAT NO.		
NON-SMOKING SEAT 11B		
PLEASE BE AT THE BOARDING GATE BY 12:15		

However, the ticket is not disclosed to be linked in any way to meetings scheduled for the user. By contrast, the claimed invention consults an appointment calendar of the user to select a printing site.

In summary, for at least the reasons detailed above, Gotanda does not teach or suggest every element of claim 1. Claim 1 thus should be allowed. Claims 2-5 and 7, which depend from claim 1, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

**B. Claims 8-12**

Claim 8, as amended, is for a system for selecting a printing site:

8. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a printing site for a print job of a user based on an appointment calendar of the user, comprising:

a plurality of printers that are proximate to respective meetings linked to time periods in an appointment calendar of a user; and

a processor operatively linked to the plurality of printers and adapted to receive a print job from a user selecting a start time and a document to be printed, to compare the start time with the time periods to identify a meeting having a linked time period in the appointment calendar corresponding to the start time, to select a printer proximate to the identified meeting, and to print the document with the printer.

Gotanda does not teach or suggest the invention of claim 8. For example, (and for the same general reasons as those described above in relation to claim 1), Gotanda does not teach or suggest a processor adapted (a) "to receive a print job from a user selecting ... a document to be printed," or (b) "to compare the start time with the time periods to identify a meeting having a linked time period in the appointment calendar corresponding to the start time,". Accordingly, claim 8 should be allowed. Claims 9-12, which depend from claim 8, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

C. Claims 14-18 and 20

Claim 14, as amended, is for a program storage device:

14. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a processor, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform method steps for selecting a printing site for a print job of a user based on an appointment calendar of the user, the method steps comprising:

receiving a print job from a user selecting a start time and a document to be printed;

receiving an appointment calendar of a user including time periods linked to meetings scheduled for the user during the time periods;

comparing the start time with the time periods to identify a meeting having a linked time period corresponding to the start time;

selecting a printer that is proximate to the identified meeting; and

printing the document with the printer.

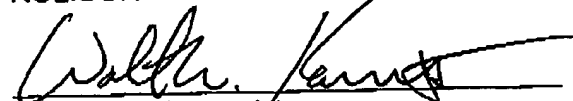
Gotanda does not teach or suggest the invention of claim 14, at least for the same reasons as those described above for claim 1. Therefore, claim 14 should be allowed. Claims 15-18 and 20, which depend from claim 14, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

**II. Conclusion**

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner S. Singh, Group Art Unit 2626, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on October 31, 2005.



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